

Continued Engagement and Dialogue with Key Participants

Background

The **Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)** has developed a new Pre-submission Engagement (PSE) process for Executive Committee (EC) screenings. Between January and April 2019, YESAB discussed practical aspects of implementing this new process. Input was received from a broad cross-section of participants in the assessment process and compiled into a [“PSE Participant Input – Summary Report”](#).

The amount and depth of input received from participants indicated considerable interest in PSE and the changes envisioned by YESAB to the Executive Committee screening process. The input showed a mixed response ranging from conceptual support, subject to further details, to serious concerns with the process as currently structured. YESAB is eager to collaborate further with interested parties to build a common understanding and shared vision of PSE.

Over the next few months, YESAB will engage directly with key participants both individually and in group settings (e.g. a facilitated workshop) on the core issues identified in the Public Input Summary Report and outlined below. This will allow for more in-depth discussions to gain a better understanding of these core issues, to answer questions, and to work through implementation challenges.

To support these discussions information is being provided in advance to allow participants time to review new information, identify options and any outstanding implementation issues.

Meetings with Participants – Advance Preparation

1. Revised PSE Framework

The PSE Framework has been revised for discussion purposes and incorporates input received from participants about its complexity, visual formatting, and level of detail. An updated Framework will be reviewed at the upcoming meetings.

2. Key Questions

There are four key questions that will be discussed during the meeting. The questions represent the key themes as described in the PSE Participant Input-Summary Report.

1. PSE Timelines

The PSE Framework states *“Timelines will be established under the PSE process but on a project-by-project basis; there are no universally applicable timelines. The time required to complete the PSE process will vary based on a number of factors including: project complexity, location, proponent preparation, First Nation and local interests. Timelines will be established and documented by the Executive Committee with participant input.”*

Summary Report: Managing timelines for the PSE process was a consistent theme in the input received from participants. There is both support for and against project-specific timelines and questions on how the Executive Committee will manage timelines, how they will be enforced and the impact on the overall duration of the assessment.

From your organization’s perspective, what requirements or measures should be put in place to help ensure a timely process? For example, the use of administrative service standards or project charters?

Pre-Submission Engagement (PSE) for Executive Committee Screenings

2. Project Changes during the PSE Process

The PSE Framework, though intended to be flexible and fluid, does not directly address how project design changes during the PSE process will be managed. While not explicitly raised during the review of the PSE Framework, the question of project amendments after a project has been approved has also been raised.

Summary Report: Many participants are seeking clarity on how project changes will be accommodated during the PSE process. Concerns were raised that steps in the PSE process may have to be repeated causing delays. Industry has recommended that the process recognize the design and lifecycles natural resource sector projects.

From your organization's perspective, how should project design changes be managed in the PSE process? Are there opportunities to leverage the PSE process to help address project amendments after a project is approved?

3. Participation in the PSE Process

The PSE Framework is based on the principle of early involvement and will require the meaningful participation of First Nations, government technical experts and regulators, and the proponent to be effective and meet intended objectives.

Summary Report: Industry highlighted the need for meaningful government and First Nation participation in the PSE process. Questions were raised on how YESAB will secure commitments to participate in PSE and ensure the process is adequately resourced.

From your organization's perspective, what measures or requirements are needed to help ensure the participation of key players (e.g. First Nations and regulators) in the PSE Process? For example, project agreements?

4. Information Requirements in the PSE Process

The PSE Framework sets out what types of information may be required from the Proponent (e.g. Project Description Requirements), how it is reviewed by participants and established in project-specific information requirements (e.g. Project Proposal Guideline).

Summary Report: All participants had questions regarding the level of detail and depth of review that may be required as a project moves through the PSE process. Concerns were raised that information may not be available so early in the development of the project proposal (e.g. preliminary design phase) or too much detail may be requested too early in the process.

From your organization's perspective, what requirements or actions are necessary to help manage participant expectations on information requirements and the level of detail during the PSE process? For example, a focus on scoping the project versus detailed effects characterizations?

If you have questions or would like further information please contact:

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